

NEWS RELEASE

USDA Forest Service

Kaibab National Forest

www.fs.fed.us/r3/kai



For Immediate Release – June 11, 2006, 9 a.m.

Contact: Jackie Denk, 928-635-5607

Kaibab National Forest Managing One Wildfire and Two Wildland Fire Use Fires

WILLIAMS, Ariz. – Both a wildfire and two wildland fire use fires are burning actively on the Kaibab National Forest. The wildfire is located on the North Kaibab Ranger District. One wildland fire use fire is also burning on the North Kaibab district while the other is burning on the Tusayan Ranger District. The North Kaibab Ranger District is north of Grand Canyon National Park while the Tusayan Ranger District is south of the park.

Wildfire

Fire Name: Indian Fire

Time/Date Started: Discovered afternoon of June 9

Location: North Kaibab Ranger District of the Kaibab National Forest; The Indian Fire is burning in the southwest corner of the North Kaibab Ranger District adjacent to Grand Canyon National Park. The fire is north of Monument and Crazy Jug points.

Cause: Lightning

Fuels: Timber, grass and brush

Size: 500 acres

% Contained: 75 %

Resources Committed: Three airtankers and one helicopter were used on the fire yesterday. The airtankers will likely not be needed today. Also on the fire are 3 Type 2 hand crews, 5 engines, 2 dozers, and 4 water tenders. Total personnel = about 100

Structures: No structures are threatened.

Closures: No road/trail closures are in effect.

Summary: Suppression efforts went very well yesterday despite flashy fuels and windy, dry conditions. Today, firefighters will continue constructing line around the fire. They will also begin mopping up. During mop-up operations, firefighters seek out and extinguish any remaining hotspots in the fire area.

Wildland Fire Use Fires

A wildland fire use fire is a fire that is managed for resource benefits. Before a fire is put into wildland fire use status, land managers evaluate several criteria. For example, if a fire threatens life, property or resources, it is not considered appropriate for wildland fire use and is immediately suppressed. Once a fire is put into wildland fire use status, it is actively managed, meaning that fire managers establish boundaries and define weather and fuels conditions under which the fire will be allowed to burn. All wildland fire use fires must be naturally-ignited (lightning).

WFU Name: Warm Wildland Fire Use

Time/Date Started: June 8; was discovered by fire personnel

Location: North Kaibab Ranger District of the Kaibab National Forest; The Warm Wildland Fire Use Fire is located about 3 miles south of Jacob Lake adjacent to state Highway 67. It is on the west side of Highway 67.

Cause: Lightning (All WFUs must be naturally-ignited.)

Fuels: Ponderosa pine litter

Acreage Treated: 22 acres; continued growth expected

Resources Committed: 2 fire use modules, 2 engines, 1 engine crew, miscellaneous firefighting personnel. Total personnel = about 20

Resource Benefits: Reduction of heavy accumulations of fuel on the forest floor; restoration of fire to the ecosystem; recycling of nutrients into the soil; protection of the Jacob Lake area from future high-intensity wildland fires

Closures: No road/trail closures are in effect.

Summary: The Warm Wildland Fire Use Fire grew slowly but steadily yesterday. The fire use fire treated acres directly adjacent to state Highway 67. The highway remains open. There were low-to-moderate smoke impacts to the highway. The highway is well-signed to warn travelers of smoke. Minimal to no smoke impacts are expected for Jacob Lake. Two fire use modules are expected to arrive today to help manage the Warm Wildland Fire Use Fire. The Mi-Wok and Summit fire use modules from the Stanislaus National Forest should be on scene at the fire today. A fire use team (Hahnenberg) has also been ordered and will be arriving today. The team will be responsible for managing the fire use fire.

WFU Name: West Wildland Fire Use Fire

Time/Date Started: Ignited June 8; discovered afternoon of June 9

Location: Tusayan Ranger District of the Kaibab National Forest; The West Wildland Fire Use Fire is located just north of Forest Road 302 about 1 mile west of Skinner Tank.

Cause: Lightning (All WFUs must be naturally-ignited.)

Fuels: Ponderosa pine forest, grass, pine litter

Acreage Treated: 250 acres; The West Wildland Fire Use Fire is expected to grow about 50 to 100 acres per day.

Resources Committed: 2 engines, a 6-person hand crew, miscellaneous firefighting personnel. Total personnel = about 15

Resource Benefits: Reduction of heavy accumulations of fuel on the forest floor; restoration of fire to the ecosystem; recycling of nutrients into the soil

Closures: No road/trail closures are in effect. While Forest Road 302 remains open, motorists are asked to use caution in the area due to firefighting traffic. Some smoke impacts could be visible overnight along FR 302. East Rim Drive in Grand Canyon National Park will likely receive smoke during the day. Motorists should be aware that they will need to use extra caution.

Summary: The West Wildland Fire Use Fire exhibited moderate fire behavior yesterday. Flame lengths ranged from about a half a foot to four feet in length. Smoke from the fire use fire is generally moving away from Tusayan and Grand Canyon Airport. The West Wildland Fire Use Fire has good potential for growth but is largely expected to move into previously-burned areas. To the fire's north and east is the Scott Prescribed Burn Project area, which received prescribed fire treatments between 2002 and 2006. To the fire's east and southeast is the North Wildland Fire Use Fire, which treated 1,370 acres in 2005. As the fire use fire moves into these previously-burned areas, fire growth is expected to slow down and smoke production will greatly diminish.

For more information, please call Jackie Denk at 928-635-5607.